और उपनगरीय रूटों पर निःशुल्क यात्रा रियायती पास जारी करता है।

(ख) और (ग) अब तक प्राप्त सूचना के अनुसार आंध्र प्रदेश, असम, हिमाचल प्रदेश, कर्नाटक, केरल, मध्य प्रदेश, उड़ीसा, राजस्थान, उत्तर प्रदेश, पश्चिम बंगाल, महाराष्ट्र और तमिलनाडु में राज्य सड़क परिवहन निगमों ने बसों में अंधे व्यक्तियों सहित विकलांगों को निःशुल्क या रियायती यात्रा सुविधा प्रदान की है।

(घ) मामला विचाराधीन है ?

Electrification of Railway Track in North Frontier Railway

1441. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for electrification of Railway tracks in North Frontier Railway; and

(b) if so, when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Hiring of Boeing 747 from Middle East Airlines

1442. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air-India had hired a Boeing 747 from Middle East Airlines and a smaller plane from Cargolux at the rate of about $ 5000 per flying hour; and

(b) what is the amount so paid indicating the foreign exchange component thereof; and the reaso and occasion for incurring this expenditure especially in view of the Prime Minister's clear instructions for urgent need to curtail expenditure on non-essential items?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) While Air-India wet leased one B-747 aircraft from Middle East Airlines in October, 1987 at a rate of US $ 5000 per flying hour, an aircraft was hired from Carglux. The hiring charges included full complement of cockpit and cabin crew, hull and war insurance and full maintenance of the aircraft.

(b) The lease charges announced US $ 1475417 equivalent to Indian Rupees 191.50 lakhs.

Air-India had heavily booked loads on their services between UK/Europe and India and other airlines were not able to accommodate these loads. In order to avoid inconvenience, there was no option bu to lease an aircraft.

Setting up of National Apex Body under National Policy on Education

1443. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Policy on Education-1986 had envisaged setting up of National Apex Body for greater co-ordination, uniformity and consistency in policy, sharing of facilities and developing inter-disciplinary research covering higher education and professional fields; and

(b) if so, what is the progress made so far with regard to its composition?